Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

Please cancel claim 40, without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 30 (canceled)

31. (currently amended): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with

(a) a genetic recombinant HCV antigen having a molecular weight of 10,000 or more and

(b) conjugated HCV antigens comprising

(i) a first HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein; and

(ii) a second HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein;

wherein the first HCV antigen comprises a first synthetic HCV peptide antigen having a molecular weight of less than 10,000 and the second HCV antigen comprises a second synthetic HCV peptide antigen different from the first synthetic HCV peptide antigen, the second synthetic HCV peptide antigen having **[[has]]** a molecular weight of less than 10,000.

32. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen comprises an HCV non-structural region protein.

33. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen comprises NS3 antigen.

34. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the first and second HCV antigens are independently selected from the group consisting of HCV non-structural region proteins and HCV structural region proteins.

35. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase is directly sensitized with the genetic recombinant HCV antigen.

36. (currently amended): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with (a) a genetic recombinant HCV antigen having a molecular weight of 10,000 or more and (b) one or more conjugated HCV antigens, wherein the conjugated HCV antigen comprises a synthetic HCV peptide antigen conjugated with a carrier protein and the synthetic HCV peptide antigen has a molecular weight of less than 10,000.

37. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the synthetic HCV peptide antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of core antigen, NS4 antigen and NS5 antigen.

38. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the synthetic HCV peptide antigen of the conjugated HCV antigen is selected from the group consisting of HCV non-structural region proteins and HCV structural region proteins.

39. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the synthetic HCV ~~antigen~~ peptide antigens of the conjugated HCV antigens comprise ~~antigen comprises~~ core ~~peptide~~ antigen, NS4 ~~peptide~~ antigen and NS5 ~~peptide~~ antigen.

40. (canceled)

41. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the carrier protein comprises a water-soluble protein.

42. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 41, wherein the water-soluble protein is selected from the group consisting of BSA, ovalbumin and hemocyanin.

43. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

44-50. (canceled)

51. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase comprises carrier particles.

52-54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 51, wherein the carrier particle is selected from the group consisting of polystyrene latex particle, copolymer latex particle, erythrocyte and gelatin particle.

56. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the solid phase comprises carrier particles.

57. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 56, wherein the carrier particles are selected from the group consisting of polystyrene latex particle, copolymer latex particle, erythrocyte and gelatin particle.

58. (canceled)

59. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the first and second synthetic HCV peptide antigens have [[~~has~~]] a molecular weight of 1,000 to 5,000.

60. (canceled)

61. (currently amended): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the synthetic HCV peptide antigen has a molecular weight of 1,000 to 5,000.

62. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the solid phase comprises a microtiter plate or a test tube.

63. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the solid phase comprises a microtiter plate or a test tube.

64. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the carrier protein has a molecular weight of 10,000 to 1,000,000.

65. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the carrier protein has a molecular weight of 10,000 to 1,000,000.

66. (previously presented): A diagnostic reagent for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection comprising a solid phase sensitized with

(a) a genetic recombinant HCV antigen having a molecular weight of 10,000 or more and

(b) conjugated HCV antigens comprising

(i) a first HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein; and

(ii) a second HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein;

wherein each of the first HCV antigen and the second HCV antigen has a molecular weight of less than 10,000, and the first HCV antigen is core antigen.

67. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 66, wherein the second HCV antigen is NS4 antigen.

68. (previously presented): The diagnostic reagent of claim 66, wherein the conjugated HCV antigens further comprises a third HCV antigen conjugated with a carrier protein.

69. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 31, wherein the genetic recombinant HCV antigen is conjugated with a carrier protein.

70. (new): The diagnostic reagent of claim 36, wherein the solid phase is directly sensitized with the genetic recombinant HCV antigen.